

WILDFLOWER

The Newsletter of the National Wildflower Research Center Volume 3, Number 3 Fall 1986

A non-profit organization dedicated to researching and promoting wildflowers to further their economic, environmental, and aesthetic use.



Fall Planting Tips

It is not the time of year when wildflowers are foremost in people's minds, but if you are planting a wildflower garden, now is the time to start "thinking wildflowers." Space does not allow coverage of all the many facets of gardening with wildflowers, but here are a few guidelines and ideas for you to take into consideration for planting a small-scale wildflower garden of your own.

When to plant. While planting times vary according to species and particular regions of the country, fall months are the ideal time for sowing most species of wildflower seeds. Certain species need to germinate in the fall and over-winter as seedlings to develop hardy root systems by spring. Seeds of other species need winter temperatures and rains to break their dormancy. There are species that can be planted in the spring in certain parts of the country, but as a general rule, planting in the fall is recommended, especially if planting a mixture of different species, to ensure you meet the requirements of all species.

Ordering your seed. If you are mail ordering seeds, begin ordering catalogs and plant lists now and order your seeds as the harvests come in, during September. Look over what will be available this season and plan which species you will want to include in your planting. Do you want species for a sunny area or will your garden receive only dappled shade? Do you want plants of a certain height or color, or a mixture? Do you want to plant only species native to your region?

We recommend planting only indigenous species for both philosophical and practical reasons. Native species will thrive and reseed themselves at a higher rate than non-native species.

Seeding rates are provided by the producer for each individual species or mix of seeds. This will enable you to calculate how much seed you require for your area. Rates are usually denser for small scale plantings than for large scale plantings.

Preparing the beds. Your main objective when preparing the seed bed is to provide optimum soil/seed contact. Denude the area of weeds either by repeated tilling of the soil or by applying herbicide. Pay attention to the residual effects of the herbicide and plan your planting time accordingly. Rake the soil to provide a workable surface prior to planting.

Sowing the seed. A small amount of wildflower seed goes a long way. When hand broadcasting the seed, it is a good idea to mix them with damp sand to help prevent clumping and to provide even distribution. Rake the seed in lightly, being careful not to bury them too deeply. A good rule of thumb is to bury the seed no deeper than two to four times as deep as their diameter. Tamp to firm the seed bed after seeding.

Care after planting. All seeds need water to germinate. Plantings should be kept moist during their early stages of development. Light waterings three to four times a week will help ensure optimum germination. During their establishment and blooming stages, supplemental watering once a week, more often if natural rainfall is low, will help wildflowers thrive and may even prolong the blooming periods of some species.

It is generally unnecessary to fertilize wildflowers if they are planted in their native habitat. In fact, fertilizing may produce excessive foliage at the expense of blooms.

Ensuring Reseeding. Wait to clear your wildflower garden until all the species have gone to seed to allow them to reseed themselves. It may require some patience on your part since wildflowers tend to look rather unkempt during their final stages.

Of course, these are generalized instructions to help you get started. If you need more specific information such as recommended species for your area, where to obtain seed, or instructions for

large scale meadow-like plantings, you may request this information from the Center's Clearinghouse. We would appreciate you including a self-addressed legal size envelope with 56¢ postage, for the wealth of wildflower information you will receive. Remember a membership benefit is priority handling of your requests.

Pam Dwiggins is a research botanist at the National Wildflower Research Center.

Center News

■ **Pink evening primroses** are emblazoned across the NWRC t-shirt and sweatshirt, which are for sale this fall. Also for sale is the striking, deep blue t-shirt with sunny black-eyed Susan; saying *Wildflowers Work*. To order send your check to: National Wildflower Research Center Clearinghouse, attention Nikki Kriss, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725. All prices include postage and handling.

Primrose sweatshirt: sizes M, L, XL; \$20 each.

Primrose t-shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL; \$12 each.

Primrose t-shirt (children's): sizes S (6-8),

M (10-12); \$10 each

Black-eyed Susan t-shirt: sizes S, M, L, XL; \$12 each

Think of ordering a gift for yourself, or your favorite wildflower enthusiast this fall.

■ **Circle September 18, 1986** on your calendar for a seminar, *Landscaping and Planting with Wildflowers and Native Plants*. The National Wildflower Research Center, *Texas Monthly*, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs of the University of Texas at Austin are co-sponsors of this *how-to seminar* designed for home gardeners. Speakers include noted Texas authors Jill Nokes and Sally Wasowski.

Two duplicate sessions will be held, at 9:30 a.m. to noon, and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Bass Lecture Hall at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Austin. The cost is \$10 for members of the NWRC, and \$25 for non-members.

To make a reservation, mail your check marked seminar to the Center. Be sure to indicate whether you wish to attend the morning or evening session. Tickets will be mailed for checks received by September 11. Tickets for checks received after that date will be held at the door for pick-up.

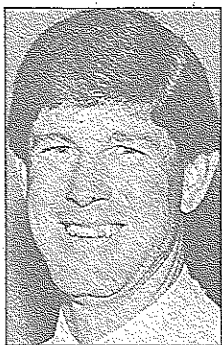
Growth Proves Enthusiasm

David Northington, Executive Director

As we approach the end of our fourth year, (and an incredibly short four years it has been), it is worthwhile to take stock of our situation. For our first two years we likened ourselves to an infant, growing and learning every day and crawling forward in establishing our research, clearinghouse, library, public education, and membership programs.

Thanks to enthusiastic public acceptance of our mission and strong support and leadership from our board, our third year saw the staff grow to match the continued expansion of our programs. During that third year and especially this year, all aspects of our activities have expanded to become national in scope. The public's understanding of the need to conserve our rich native flora and their enthusiasm for the use of these wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees in established landscapes has been nothing less than phenomenal.

Our efforts to advance these ideas and provide the information needed to improve success has resulted in a variety of nationwide activities. This newsletter, *Wildflower*, has enjoyed a rapidly increasing readership due to our growing national membership which is now over 7,000. In addition to our own printed



Dr. David Northington

words, we have received significant magazine publicity through articles in *Reader's Digest* (March 1986), *Americana* (May 1985), *The New York Times*, *Orion Nature Quarterly* (Spring 1986), plus smaller magazines and newspapers across the country.

Equally exciting has been the large number of people who have attended the four wildflower and landscaping symposia that we have co-sponsored in New York, Washington D.C., Georgia, and Texas. We have also participated in other national meetings and symposia by presenting talks in North Dakota, New York, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia, and over twelve cities in Texas. In the coming year, two more symposia and several invitations to present talks are already on the books in other states.

This fourth year has had as its top priority, however, the initiation of cooperative research projects in different regions of the country. In addition to the eight listed in the last issue of *Wild-*

flower, we are now planning new research programs in Arizona, Florida, and Utah. To provide an outlet for the information generated by our and others' research, we have started a journal, *Wildflower Report*. The first issue is scheduled to come out early in 1987 and subsequent issues will be published quarterly.

All of our success and rapid public acceptance is tied to our membership program. In the two-and-a-half years since we started our membership drive, we have learned a lot about other organizations and membership programs in general. We are justifiably proud that we have one of the most committed, well-informed, and supportive national memberships of any similar organization in the country.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are also proud that as an organization we are able to offer so many benefits to members! The addition of *Wildflower Report* to the newsletter, tours, symposia, library, clearinghouse fact sheets, and wildflower products (tote bags, notecards, and posters) provides a broad spectrum of available resources and benefits. In the future we plan to add yet more benefits for our members. Thank you for your ideas, your enthusiastic commitment, and your support. Let us hear from you.

Memberships Flood In

Check Your Label

So many of you read every word of *Wildflower*. We know, as we've been flooded with membership applications since we told you in our Summer 1986 edition of *Wildflower* that this edition, Fall 1986, would be your last unless you are an active member or donor.

Some non-profit organizations have asked whether we can exchange publications. The answer is yes. Please write to us with your request and we will keep you on the mailing list.

By now we believe that we've caught up with any outstanding donor records, and all donors and active members should see an asterisk on their label. Please do check your label, and if there is no asterisk on the upper left corner, this will be your last complimentary issue of *Wildflower*. Don't let that happen to you!

Please fill in a membership application today, to ensure uninterrupted subscription and your other membership benefits.

1985 Financial Facts

A brief summary of Center finances for 1985.

Unexpendable Funds:	
Designated Founders Fund revenue*	\$1,000,904.00
Expendable Funds:	
Total raised	\$838,322.00
Funding Sources:	
Special Event—New York City	31%
Membership	13%
Special Event—Dallas	12%
Earnings on investments	10%
Special event—Austin	7%
Restricted and unrestricted grants	6%
Special event—Washington D.C.	6%
Royalties and product sales	3%
Honorariums	2%

*Includes \$88,000 raised in annual gift appeal December 1985.

Beth Anderson

Earth laughs in flowers," Emerson once wrote. Wildflowers bring a lilting quality to the landscape; that spot of color which quickly attracts the eye and uplifts the spirit. So we try to preserve those reminders of spring and summer in brilliant bouquets.

In order to collect wildflowers, one must first have a general idea of their life cycles. Observe wildflowers in gardens, or flowers you have picked and placed in water. Watch how they die or go to seed. This observation process will help one decide which wildflowers are best to dry. Good possibilities for drying are those that retain some of their original form and color, that have stiff petals or colorful bracts. Tightly clumped specimens usually dry more easily than large loose flowers.

Gathering Your Bounty

And so, you're ready to gather. But where do you begin? The most obvious place is probably a garden, perhaps your own. As you become more skilled or ambitious in drying wildflowers you may want to plant a meadow specifically for that purpose.

If you do not have a garden, or access to one, nature provides abundantly. Before you go tromping over hill and dale, though, you must abide by certain rules and take the following precautions:

- Know which species are protected and do not pick them.
- Obtain permission from landowners or pick at empty lots or places due for construction. It is illegal to pick in most parks too.
- Only pick one wildflower for every ten you see, in order to preserve them for the next year. If you only see one of a particular kind, do not pick it!
- Learn which plants are poisonous such as poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and stinging nettles, and avoid them.
- Wear protective clothing, even gloves perhaps. Use insect repellent and sunscreen if necessary.
- Have the proper tools. You will need a sharp pocket knife, pruning shears or clippers for thick stems, and buckets of water in which to place your wildflowers. You may want to

wrap some up in newspapers.

Now you are ready to go. Try to avoid highways, busy roads, bridges, and narrow lanes. Cool, dark areas are not very conducive to wildflowers. They prefer open areas, the banks of streams and ponds, or the edges of woods.

Try to go on a dry day. Excess humidity will cause wildflowers to be damp and become mildewed. Usually, late afternoon is the best time to pick. Avoid the heat of the day, as the wildflowers will wilt, or the dampness of the evening. Choose specimens that are unblemished and just opening. Experiment with determining the best picking stage. Shake off or spray them for insects. When cutting, do so cleanly at an angle with a sharp knife. Strip the excess foliage simultaneously. It will save you a step and the mess later. Place the wildflowers immediately into buckets of water at room temperature.

Drying Wildflowers

There is no one way to dry flowers. Experiment as much as possible, but keep in mind these principles:

- Always dry more material than you think you will need.
- Make sure your material is completely dry before you start.
- Be sure you use the best possible specimens.

Air Drying A Good Way To Start

Air drying is the easiest method. It allows the wildflowers to dry naturally without the use of chemicals. Here is a basic procedure to follow:

■ Hang flowers upside down in bunches, as soon after picking them as possible.

■ Be sure not to crowd flowers too much, usually 5 to 10 stems per bunch is optimum.

■ Secure with twist ties or rubber bands, as stems will shrink as they lose water.

■ Hang bunches on hooks, racks, or rods, or attach several bunches to a coat hanger. Single flowers can be hung from a coat hanger by bobby pins. Not all materials should be hung upside down. Grasses dry more naturally if kept upright.

■ Place bunches in a warm, dry, clean, well ventilated area, the proverbial grandmother's attic. These conditions speed up the drying process and help flowers retain their color. Avoid sunlight! It damages the petals and fades the colors.

■ A related method, the evaporation technique, allows flowers to dry upright with stems in 1 to 2 inches of water. This allows specimens to dry more slowly and naturally.

■ Pods, berries, and branches do not require much drying. Harvest them when color and texture are best.

■ Wildflowers such as horsemint, black-eyed Susan, gayfeather and the sages dry easily and are good choices for a first attempt. The stems of some flowers are fragile and should be wired before drying. Push the wire up the stem into the flower head, but not so that it's visible from above.

■ Most wildflowers dry in eight to ten days. Foliage can take longer.

Microwave Drying Excellent For Foliage

This method is especially good for

leaves. Successful dried types include azalea, columbine, dogwood, and mountain laurel. Fall leaves will retain their colors by this method. Follow these steps:

■ Place one or two leaves on a paper napkin half, fold over the other half, to cover completely.

■ Place an oven-proof custard cup upside down over the napkin to keep leaves from curling. Set the oven for 2 minutes on HIGH.

■ Leaves are done when stiff and dry. If they are damp, return to the oven for another minute. If they are almost dry, place on paper overnight to dry naturally.

■ Everlasting flowers of the composite family can be dried for 1 minute on HIGH. In order to allow the heat to penetrate, let the flowers sit outside the microwave for 5 minutes before determining dryness.

Drying adds a new dimension to the enjoyment of wildflowers. One appreciates their fragility even more while trying to preserve that fleeting beauty. So pick conscientiously, learn immeasurably, and enjoy tremendously.

References and recommended books for further reading:

A Book of Pot-pourri by Gail Duff. 1985.

The Dried Flower Book by Annette Mierthof. 1981.

The Art of Drying Plants and Flowers by Mabel Squires. 1958.

The Complete Book of Dried Flowers by Patricia Thorpe. 1985.

Dried Flowers for All Seasons by Betty Wiita. 1982.

Beth Anderson has a master's degree in biology. At present, she is working as a data entry operator at the National Wildflower Research Center.

Did you know that Mrs. Enid Haupt of New York made the inaugural gift to the National Wildflower Research Center? She was our first donor, giving \$5,000 to the Center in 1982, which spurred our Board of Trustees to incorporate and establish an annual giving program.

The Center is building a major financial resource called the Founder's Fund, which presently has assets of over \$1,000,000. We hope to build this fund to the level that interest earned will substantially help support the Center's annual operating costs. Now you know how much your contributions mean to the organization.

Wildflower
Flights
of
Fancy


"Macintosh Plus's are a lifesaver!" says NWRC secretary/receptionist, our ever-cheerful Shelly Branscom. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller of New York, the Center is the recipient of six new Mac Plus's, with peripheral printers, external disk drives, a Laser-Writer, and software. They supplement our current Burroughs B-22 mini computer system. The

Mac's will be used primarily for word processing and general accounting. And with the Laser-Writer, staff public relations specialist Deborah Mullins will produce many of our graphics pieces inhouse.

Says Ms. R.M.A. of Dallas, Texas (while enclosing a \$5,000-check to our Founder's Fund), "I am sure thankful for Mrs. Johnson. Until she came along and made it respectable, I kept a low profile as a wildflower nut. Now we can all come out of the closet as she made wildflowers fashionable!"

Carlton Lees, vice-President of NWRC, and resident of Brewster, New York maintains, "My wildflower meadows are a never-ending adventure. . . . The evolutionary process from annuals to biennials to perennials can be observed firsthand among these plants."

Mrs. G.S. Schieffer of Fort Worth, Texas relates ". . . The Center has inspired us all to plant and enjoy our native wildflowers." She sent in glorious photographs of meadows waving with gaillardia at her home in Fort Worth. We cheer your accomplishments, Mrs. S.

Philadelphia is glowing golden, and much of it is due to Louise Schiller, a landscape architect of Princeton, New Jersey. She won a top prize in *The Certaineed Award for City Visions*, given by the City of Philadelphia. Her idea is to use black-eyed Susan to make a Ribbon of Gold for that city—. . . to connect neighborhood to neighborhood, place to place, and people to nature with a Golden Ribbon. Black-eyed Susan's could be planted anywhere people wanted to make that statement of connectedness about their city. . . ." One applauds her vision and originality. Do you think other cities may follow suit? 

Wildflower Report Information for Contributors

With the first edition of *Wildflower Report* moving into production, we would like to encourage you to read the excerpt from our *Information for Contributors* listed below, to judge whether you would like to submit an article for publication.

The *Wildflower Report* is open to papers dealing with the conservation, propagation, establishment, and management of native or naturalized wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees occurring in North America. Its purpose is to provide an outlet for manuscripts that are either cross disciplinary in

scope or are written for an audience composed of professionals and interested lay people in the fields of agriculture, botany, ecology, horticulture, landscape design, land development, land planning, land management, commercial plant or seed production, range management, and other fields of inquiry related to these disciplines.

Appropriate articles dealing with gardening, private landscaping, plant rescue, revegetation and similar subjects will also be considered for publication if limited to the appropriate plant materials. Writing style should avoid jargon within the author's primary discipline and should be easily read and understood by a broad public and professional audience. The emphasis should be on practical and applied information rather than isolated basic research data.

If you do wish to contribute to the journal, please contact the Editor, NWRC, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, Texas 78725 (512) 929-3600 for detailed instructions on how to present your copy before submitting your article.

FROM THE MAILBOX

September 18, 1986—*Landscaping and Planting with Wildflowers and Native Plants* in Austin, Texas sponsored by the National Wildflower Research Center, Texas Monthly, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Designed as a how-to seminar for home gardeners. Contact: National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725 (512) 929-3600.

September 21-24, 1986—*National Forum on Biodiversity* sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Diagnosis, analysis, prognosis of present state and future prospects for the biological diversity of the planet Earth. Contact: National Forum on Biodiversity, Directorate of International Activities, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560.

September 24, 1986—*Naturescaping our Highways and Byways* at the Riverbank Zoo Educational Center, Columbia, South Carolina. Conference includes techniques for planting with wildflowers, evaluating research, budgeting, and landscaping. Contact: Edie Moore, the Wildflower Alliance of South Carolina, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 734-0141.

September 26-27, 1986—*Planning for the Future with Native Plants and Wildflowers* at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. Contact: Dr. Jack Kemp, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409.


September 26-28, 1986—*Grow Texan, A Celebration and Symposium of Native Plant Landscaping* at Armand Bayou Nature Center, Houston, Texas. Contact: Gary Freeborg, Armand Bayou Nature Center, P.O. Box 58828, Houston, TX 77258 (713) 474-2551.

October 11, 1986—*Ecological Landscaping Symposium* at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California. Landscaping for Southern California to conserve water and dollars. Contact: Education Department, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. Colledge Ave., Claremont, CA 91711 (714) 626-1917.

October 16-17, 1986—*Operation Wildflower Workshop* in Cleveland, Ohio, sponsored by the Garden Club of Ohio, Inc. Contact: Mrs. Saul S. Goldstein, Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., 2 Bratenall Place, Cleveland, OH 44108 (216) 761-7770.

October 21-24, 1986—*Thirteenth Annual Natural Areas Conference* at Trout Lodge Conference Center, near Potosi, Missouri. Speakers on national issues related to the natural area profession and field trips to the Ozarks. Contact: Natural Areas Conference, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (314) 751-4115 ext. 202.

November 5-8, 1986—*Rare and Endangered Plants: A California Conference on Their Conservation and Management*, sponsored by the California Native Plant Society at the Capital Plaza Holiday Inn, 300 J Street, Sacramento, California. Contact: Jim Nelson, Conference Coordinator, 909 12th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

November 7-8, 1986—*The California Chaparral: Paradigms Reexamined* at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California. Contact: Symposium Coordinator, LAM, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007. 

Katy McKinney

Our native plant species are a wonderful resource for home landscape projects. Once established, natives require less care than traditional ornamental plants: homeowners can save money in labor, water, fertilizer, and pesticide costs, as well as reduce pollution from petrochemical run-off.

Native plants can be used in a variety of ways. Using native species in landscapes can vary from using only natives, interspersing them with existing ornamentals or just using one or two native species.

One can landscape exclusively with natives, imitating nature down to the quantity and arrangement of each species. This arranging of plants in natural communities is called natural landscaping, and is, as one might expect, very regional. Prairies, deserts, and meadows can be duplicated as interesting yards.

A traditional landscape design can be interpreted using natives. A native grass lawn bordered by wildflower beds is a simple example.

In yards that are already landscaped, small portions can be developed a little at a time into small scale native plant communities in border beds or as screening between homes. Native species and traditional ornamentals can be mixed together.

In some residential situations, one or two native species may be showcased, like an existing pecan or maple tree. Natives can be incorporated into the home landscape when replacement plants are needed—using local species need not entail drastic changes!

Landscaping with natives is like regional cooking, available materials are combined in unique ways. Even incorporating a few representative species in a home landscape would add interest. For example, a midwestern home landscape could include elements of the tall-grass prairie: big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). Other species could be added depending on the site. Black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) could be planted in the yard of a California mountain home. An east-

Native Landscapes Showcase for Nature

ern meadow garden might include butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), and purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*).


Within the specific environmental requirements (soil, moisture, exposure), one can select species according to other criteria as well. For instance, at the Wildflower Center, we are

Tuning In To Wildflowers

Monarda Citriodora

Undoubtedly, purple lemonmint, *Monarda citriodora*, is one of the brightest stars on the wildflower horizon. Not only is this plant a wonderfully showy wildflower, but it is also a very hardy, heat tolerant, and adaptable species that gives color from early June through July.

Purple lemonmint is an annual that germinates readily, establishes with a minimum amount of water, and reseeds successfully. It stands from 2 to 3 feet tall when flowering and produces very deep purple clusters of flowers on each plant.

It is a great addition to any wildflower planting and will grow successfully in a wide variety of soil types. Because it has grown in popularity so rapidly during the past two years, the seed industry had been unable to satisfy the large demand. We are told that this year seed will be available. If you either have not tried this beauty, or were unable to buy seed in previous years, by all means this fall find a place for purple lemonmint in your wildflower plantings. 

working on a "color calendar" list, which will include species which flower consecutively from early spring through to the following fall. Other criteria might include using only perennials or designing for interesting textures using mainly non-flowering species.

Whenever one attempts a novel landscape in a residential area, it's wise to share the plans with one's immediate neighbors, especially with large projects. One reason the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department wildflower plantings may have been so successful were the signs which said, "Pardon us, we're a wildflower-area making seed for next year and saving tax dollars" placed conspicuously in these areas. Dallas citizens could see there was a reason for leaving dried-up wildflowers to reseed.

Local landscape ordinances should be checked before you embark on your native landscaping project. In many cases, ordinances are vague and subject to interpretation by local officials. Related codes may exist under several headings, such as health (weeds) and fire (height) ordinances which could affect wildflower plantings. Several natural landscapers across the country have had difficulty persuading neighbors to accept their native yards, however their battles serve to educate others on the value of using natives.

Endless possibilities exist for landscaping with native plants and there is much yet to learn about them. Natives are valuable not only for economic and conservation reasons, but also for their aesthetic appeal. **Wildflowers work!**


A brief bibliography to help you plan your native landscape.

Natural Landscaping, Designing with Native Plant Communities by John Diekelman and Robert Schuster. 1982.

The Wildflower Meadow Book, A Gardener's Guide by Laura C. Martin. 1986.

Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants, Ortho Books. 1984.

Nature's Design by Carol A. Smyser. 1982.

Landscaping with Native Texas Plants by Sally Wasowski and Julie Ryan. 1985. 

Katy McKinney is a research botanist at the National Wildflower Research Center.

B-O-O-K REVIEWS

The Wildflower Meadow Book: A Gardener's Guide by Laura C. Martin East Woods Press Books, 303 pp, 1986.

Meadow gardening is gaining popularity due to the increased interest in low maintenance gardening, as well as the rising appreciation for native plants and natural landscapes. If one tried to learn more about meadow gardening, the lack of "How To Do" books would become immediately apparent. *The Wildflower Meadow Book: A Gardener's Guide* by Laura Martin provides a wealth of practical and much needed information for the homeowner wanting to create a backyard meadow.

This book is targeted for residential landscapes, providing practical taxonomic, geographic, and cultural information. The wildflower recommendations are separated into seven geographic ranges and serve only as guidelines in planning a meadow garden. The differences between native, naturalized, introduced, escaped, and exotic species are clearly made. Seed sources and knowledgeable institutions and organizations are listed at the end of each regional section.

A large portion of the book is devoted to individual taxa which includes pertinent information such as natural and growing range, bloom period, height, color, cultural requirements, and methods of propagation. Of the nearly 100 species listed, approximately 60 species are native to the United States with specific growing ranges cited.

The *How to Do* section includes comprehensive planning and planting processes for a meadow garden. The criteria for choosing a site, creating plant communities, and determining site conditions are explained. The actual planting process is divided into ten steps and is intended for the average home gardener.

Ms. Martin's enthusiastic and refreshing style will guide you through the development of your meadow, and make its establishment a rewarding activity.

How To Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest
 by Jill Nokes
 Texas Monthly Press, 404 pp, 1986.
 Illustrations by Kathy Brown.

The increasing interest in the economic, environmental, and aesthetic benefits of native plants has created a new market for nurseries to serve. According to a news release on May 2, 1986 by the Texas Department of Agriculture, 75 percent of the plant materials used for Texas landscapes are imported from California or Florida. The recent publication of *How To Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest* serves as an excellent comprehensive guide for the nurserymen

of Texas and the southwest to start propagating native plants on a larger scale and in turn meet the current demand for native plant materials. This growth industry could potentially add

Executive Director: Dr. David Northington
 Associate Director: Carolyn Curtis
 Editor: Mae Daniller
 Art Director: Deborah Mullins


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to a state's economy.

This book is based on the author's master's thesis in horticulture at Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas. It is a result of research from a variety of sources including an extensive literature search, documentation of personal communication with experienced native plant propagators, and her own efforts to grow native plants. It serves as a complete handbook to collection, storage and propagation of more than 350 species of native trees, shrubs, and woody vines.

Both the professional and layperson will find this book an invaluable addition to their library. Detailed instruction is presented on how to gather

and store seeds, how to germinate and raise seedlings, vegetative propagation techniques, and proper methods of transplanting. The main text is devoted to propagation information on individual species with specific instructions on collection and storage of seed, methods of propagation and a listing of the natural habitat, range and preferred site of each species.

A book review would be incomplete without comment on the artistic and botanically exacting accompanying illustrations by Kathy Brown. One only wishes more were included. 

Annie Paulson is a resource botanist at the National Wildflower Research Center.

How To Become A NWRC Member

Your membership donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed under Federal and State laws. For information concerning the benefits of each level of membership, please contact the Center. Return to: Membership, National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725.

- \$25 Supporting Member
- \$250 Center Sponsor

- \$50 Sustaining Member
- \$500 Trust Member

- \$100 Key Member
- \$1000 Benefactor

Please make your check or money order payable to "NWRC."

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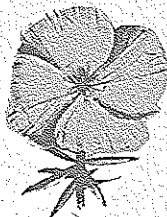
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 (512) 292-4200

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